



## Chapter 28 - Elizabeth's other Sons:

(1855 – 1932)

**George, Alick, and Francis**

Two other children of David Brown and Elizabeth McMahon, notable for being close are Alick (Alexander) and George. They seem to have teamed up for much of their first thirty years. George was born 12 July 1831 and Alick 14 October 1834. George and Alick were moderately successful in their commercial enterprises, but were in the shadow of their older brothers James and John.

For a brief while, George and Alick shared their childhood with their younger brother, Francis, born c1836. Francis is said to have died in infancy, sometime during 1839. The statistics for the Brown households at Jerry's Plains in the 1841 imply that he was deceased by then. However, Francis was around long enough for George to remember his existence and death and record the fact when registering their father's death in 1857.

When their mother, Elizabeth, died on 21 November 1837 at Jerry's Plains, George was only six years and four months, and Alick was only just over 3 years old. This loss could not help being noticed by them. It may well account in part for George's conduct later regarding his father's subsequent marriages.

About 1848 George and Alick would have actively assisted in the day-to-day business of stock management, which more than likely meant assisting in the driving of sheep and cattle from 'Millie' to the southern markets.

George was in his 17<sup>th</sup> year and Alick in his 14<sup>th</sup> when their father married for a second time, to former convict, Harriet D'Arcy, on 16 May 1848, and their brother, Thomas, died. George, in particular, does not seem to have had a happy relationship with his stepmother.

When their father, David, died on 11 January 1857, George was 25 years old and Alick was just over 22 years old.

### **Robbery at Turrawan**

Typical of the Brown family then, Alick, by his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 1854, was already established as a 'Stockholder' and had accumulated savings from keeping and selling livestock. Like his nephew, David, it is more than likely that his livestock management activities were heavily concentrated at Millie.

From time to time, the livestock needed to be driven to the market place. On at least one of those occasions, which proved particularly eventful, Alex was assisted by his brother, George:

Saturday evening, 13 January 1866, Alick and brother, George, being 'on their way down with cattle' are recorded as staying at the Turrawan Hotel owned by James Ward.

Turrawan is 25 kilometres to the southeast of Narrabri; 90 kilometres southeast of 'Millie'; and 30 kilometres to the north of Boggabri, where Alick had been residing with his family for some years.<sup>911</sup>

That evening the hotel was 'stuck up' by two bushrangers of Thunderbolt's gang: Kelly, and another about 10 o'clock p.m. The Turrawan correspondent for the Tamworth Examiner reported that "*Mr Alexander Brown and Mr George Brown...*"

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<sup>911</sup> The probability of there being another Alexander & George Brown in that location, driving cattle 'on their way down', and being well known in the Turrawan, and the surrounding district is extremely remote. The people mentioned in this article do not have to be related, however, as another indication of the probability of them being any other than the subject of this work, there are only seven births Alexander Brown/es in the NSW BDM 1800 - 1846. There are only 43 George Brown/es 1800-1846. There is only one each that has parents in common.



“...were about to retire for the night, when suddenly two horsemen rode up and called for the ostler. On his appearance they dismounted and, giving their horses up to him, ordered him not to stir from the spot. In the bar were Messrs. Brown and some five or six others.

Revolver in hand, Kelly appeared at the door, and bidding them good evening, politely requested them to ‘range up’, which under the pressing circumstances was at once complied with. Kelly then took his station at the bar door where he could have his eye on both horses and victims. His mate proceeded to examine all the rooms, the stables, outhouse, etc., bringing in every individual on the premises who were made to range up with all the rest.’

The work of searching was systematically proceeded with, except with regard to those Mr Ward requested the bushrangers not to

molest, as being men working for him he knew they had no money on them.

The only cash they got was from the person of Mr Ward, about £3 10s in silver and 10s in gold. Mr Ward’s bedroom was next proceeded to, and every effort was made to discover the bank.’ ‘Fortunately Mr Ward had that week remitted all his valuable money (the last half only having left by post an hour previous to the attack), so that the cash box presented no very tempting appearance, only “calabashes” (about £10) and some 7s or 8s. This they declined to touch, thinking no doubt, to get a larger haul.’

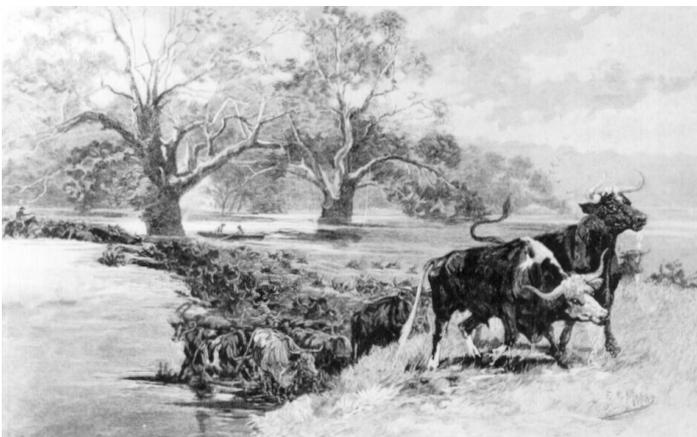
‘Treated very respectfully and told not to fear anything. They were allowed to go to their own rooms, which were left undisturbed. From the store a few trousers and about 1lb of tobacco was all that was taken, there not being other articles suited to their requirements.’

‘Observing some trunks on which the children were sleeping quietly, they thought they were on the track, but upon being told that they contained only linen and clothes, they said the children looked very happy and they would not disturb them. The females were treated very respectfully and told not to fear anything.’

‘They kept open house in the bar for about two hours, calling for grog for all hands, and regretting that, having reaped such an insignificant harvest, they could not afford to pay, and ....called upon someone else to shout.

The call was responded to by Mr A Brown.’ ‘After which ‘taking a bottle of port wine, and bidding all good night, they started down the river at about 12 o’clock. They were splendidly mounted and each had a spare horse.” Information was sent “to the police as soon as it was possible to get a horse, and about 2p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> four troopers and a tracker passed in pursuit.”<sup>912</sup>

It is apparent that “Messrs. Brown” were better known to the correspondent than the ‘five or six others’ – Presumably, because they were regular visitors, and well known in the Turrawan, and the surrounding district. It is likely that it was well known where they were driving their cattle from – i.e. John’s ‘Millie’/Waterloo Creek’. Possibly, the author expected the men to be known to many of the readership of various regional newspapers?



Cattle being driven across swollen river

Also, Alick, the younger of the two brothers, was seen to have a greater presence than his brother. The writer was more aware of Alick than George. Presumably, in no small part to him being known as a stockholder and having connections in the region.

Alick was then 32 years and George 35 years old. It was Alick who had the generosity of spirit (or wisdom) to help keep the situation calm, and pay for the ‘shout’; and had the money to do so. George, the elder of the two, was reticent -

Perhaps fuming at the idea of frittering money on hostile strangers?

Both men were married at this time and had young families to go home to.

### More on George Brown

In 1857 George became the licensee of the ‘Horse and Jockey’ that had been bequeathed to his father’s third wife, Eliza Lewis nee Page. With the exception of 1859, he held the licence to 1868.<sup>913</sup>

The Sydney Morning Herald of Tuesday, 19 February 1861, carried the following notification of George’s Marriage<sup>914</sup>:

<sup>912</sup> Armidale Express Saturday 21 January 1866 (abridged from the Tamworth Examiner 20 January 1866).

<sup>913</sup> Index to Liquor Licences in the Hunter 1865-1921



**Brown - Keating** - January 8th, by special licence, at St Andrew's temporary Cathedral, by the Rev. George King, Mr George Brown, of Jerry's Plains, to Emily Jane Keating, granddaughter of the late Phillip Keating, of George-street and Ashfield, and niece to Mr James Webb, of Waverley.

A daughter, Emily Elizabeth was born to George and Emily on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1861 and baptised on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1861. George's occupation was given as 'innkeeper' of Jerry's Plains.<sup>915</sup>

## Death of Alfred

George's half brother, Alfred, age 14, died on 15 November 1862 as a result of a fall from a horse at 'Arrowfield near Jerry's Plains'. However, one of the witnesses to the burial was 'George Brown' - Perhaps demonstrating a genuine sense of loss, or dutifully paying his respects?

At the time of 'Registration of Death', Alfred's father was given as 'David Brown' a 'Publican' and mother 'unknown'. The informant was the surgeon A.W. Thornton of Muswellbrook. As to where Surgeon Thornton got this particular information from about Alfred is unknown. While it is indicative of a vague recollection, it is also consistent with the antipathy George expressed towards his stepmother and half-brothers when registering his father's death.

David had not been a licensed publican since 1838 when he gave it up to his son, Thomas, and a succession of others - He had held it for only three years. George registered his father as a 'Farmer' when he registered the death in 1857. Many others in the Jerry's Plains community also would have known David as that, and 'Landowner' and Grazier as well.

For further insights into this event, consult chapter 21 'Inheritance'.

*# A daughter, Annie was born to George and Emily in 1863, and registered at 'Patrick Plains'.<sup>916</sup>*

*# A daughter, Mary was born to George and Emily in 1865, and registered at 'Patrick Plains'.<sup>917</sup>*

*# A daughter, Martha was born to George and Emily in 1867, and registered in 'Patrick Plains'.<sup>918</sup>*

On 24 February 1865 Eliza D'Arcy formerly Brown of Jerry's Plains sold land at Jerry's Plains on the Hunter River to George Brown landholder of Jerry's Plains for £50.

The deed of sale included portions promised to John James and Thomas Edward on Eliza's demise having not produced any heirs. The initiative for preparation of the deed seems to have emanated from George.

The land that his nephews were liable to inherit was small in relation to the land that George had managed to acquire as part of a steady acquisition program. Young John and Thomas's land was also enveloped by George's holdings.

However, long lasting dissatisfaction on the part of the nephews about their Uncle George, and the beginnings of an unhappy legend, seems to stem from this transaction. (See Chapter 21 'Inheritance'). Rumours (perhaps unfair) of his nephews having been 'hard done' by their Uncle George' being broadcast around the district in places like the 'Horse and Jockey, could well have made life in Jerry's Plains difficult.

<sup>914</sup> BDM reg no 15 of 1861 also refers. Noticeably, it omits father's name, Richard Keating. Grandfather, Phillip Keating has been traced by Christine Hodge to Philip Keating, 48yrs Wireworker; Jane Amelia Keating 49yrs (nee Sawyer), Silkweaver; Children: Frederick Keating 11yrs:Lousia, 19yrs; Emma Augustus 15yrs; and Jane Adelaide 13; who were among passengers emigrating by the government (Bounty) on the 'Prince Regent' Nov 1838 and arrived NSW 17 Mar 1839. Philip died 2 Oct 1853, Ashfield. Jane Amelia Keating died 24 May 1854 Ashfield. Again of note is the omission of 'Richard' which may be a pseudonym for Frederick.

<sup>915</sup> BDM registration No 11518 of 1861. (transcript of parish register of Jerry's Plains, entry No. 25.)

<sup>916</sup> BDM registration No 12046 of 1863

<sup>917</sup> BDM registration No 13478 of 1865

<sup>918</sup> BDM registration No 14541 of 1867



As it is, George's departure from Jerry's Plains coincided with his sister-in-law, Ann Brown<sup>919</sup> taking up residence at nearby Merton.

In 1868, George gave up being licensee of the 'Horse and Jockey'. He and his family moved to Newcastle where his elder brother, James, and family, had been living for years.

George and family were known to have at some point taken up residence at 'Prospect Cottage', in Tyrell Street, Newcastle, one of many properties owned by James. It seems likely that Prospect Cottage was George's first and only home in Newcastle.

Blanche Eliza was born to George and Emily in 1869 in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>920</sup> Blanche ultimately became Mrs Blanche E Jenkins. As such, she recorded much of the family legend in general and in particular about (romantic?) connections with Scotland.

On 1 July 1870, George 'formerly of Jerry's Plains, now residing in Newcastle', and describing himself as 'Gentleman', sold 640 acres Parish Wambo, County Hunter, for £400 to his brother, John, Brown of Jerry's Plains.<sup>921</sup> It appears on this date George disposed of all the land that he had acquired at Jerry's Plains to his brother, John. It noticeably omitted or ignored the portions promised to John James and Thomas Edward that he had negotiated with Eliza in 1865.

*# A son, George A(lexander?) was born to George and Emily in 1871 in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>922</sup>*

*# A son, Thomas Percy was born to George and Emily in 1873 in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>923</sup>*

*# A son, Vesper R was born to George and Emily in 1876 in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>924</sup>*

*# A son, Herschel J, was born to George and Emily in 1878 in Newcastle, NSW.<sup>925</sup>*

George's brother, James, died on Wednesday, 24 April 1878, and the funeral procession left from George's residence, 'Prospect Cottage' at 4pm the next day. Also during 1878, George's son, Vesper R, died.<sup>926</sup>

While Prospect Cottage was said to be George's home in 1878, it was also known to be a property that had been acquired by James. It may have George been renting or had purchase the premises from his brother. James had property in Sydney, at Newtown Road, and had been living there at the time of his death. The disposal of James's estate may have left George with no alternative other than having to seek a job and new 'digs'?

The Maitland Mercury of Saturday, 8 January 1881, carried the following notification of George's death:

<p><b>On the 23rd December, at his residence, "Tighe's House" Waratah, George Brown, aged 49, fifth son of the late David Brown, of Jerry's Plains.</b></p>
<p>235</p>

Emily, perhaps having been researching the Brown family history for some years, wrote to genealogist G. R. Nichols in 1914 asking for assistance. She was living at Neutral Bay at the time. (See footnote 293 on page 82).<sup>927</sup>

<sup>919</sup> Nee Shepherd.

<sup>920</sup> BDM registration No 15310 of 1869

<sup>921</sup> Book 120 No 218, 221, and 223.

<sup>922</sup> BDM registration No 14193 of 1871

<sup>923</sup> BDM registration No 15330 of 1873

<sup>924</sup> BDM registration No 16665 of 1876

<sup>925</sup> BDM registration No 18366 of 1878

<sup>926</sup> Hawkesbury Pioneer Register Volume I, contributor Merryll Hope.



The Sydney Morning Herald of Friday, 10 June 1932 carried a notice that Emily, ‘in her 91<sup>st</sup>’ had died on 8 June 1932 at her home 341 Ernest Street North Sydney.<sup>928</sup> She had been a widow 26 years.

**George and Emily Jane Brown nee Keating had at least nine children:**

i.	Emily Elizabeth	(1861-1940)	vi.	George A.	(1871-1917)
ii.	Anne	(1863-1934)	vii.	Percy Thomas	(1873 –1964)
iii.	Mary	(1865-1953)	viii.	Vesper R.	(1876-1878)
iv.	Martha	(1867-1919)	ix.	Herschel J.	(1878-1952)
v.	Blanche E.	(1869-1957)			

George is an interesting character. He is a figure of some mystery, with a hint of Victorian self-righteousness concealing a deep-seated animosity. His role in the dealings pertaining to his father’s estate and the care of his half brothers suggests interference. He is at the centre of events that unfolded regarding those dealings that are dealt with in more detail in Chapter 21 – ‘Inheritance’. One gets the impression that his father, and his brothers John, and Alex, and his sister-in-law, Ann Brown had the measure of George.

**More on Alick Brown**

Indicative of his abilities as a manager of livestock Alick had managed to afford, on 24 December 1855, to purchase Portion 39, Parish of Maroota 100 acres Cattai Creek property (originally granted to his Uncle James) from his father, David, for £600.<sup>929</sup>

Three and a half years later, Alick married Ellen Turner in West Maitland, NSW, on 6 April 1859, according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. Alick was 24 years old and described as ‘Stockholder’, usually residing in Maitland. Ellen, whose usual residence was given as Lochinvar (near Maitland), was under the age of twenty-one and required the consent of her father, Mark Turner. David Turner and Catherine Kidd were witnesses.

On 19 May 1859, Alick mortgaged his 100 acre, Portion 39 property at Cattai, to his brother, James, (now of Ada Street, Newcastle) for 500 pounds at a rate of 8 percent per annum.<sup>930</sup>

*# A daughter, Ellen Elizabeth, was born to Alick and Ellen at Lochinvar, on 6 January 1860.*

*# A son, Mark, was born to Alick and Ellen at Lochinvar, on 21 Oct 1862*

Again, on 7 December 1863, Alick (‘of Jerry’s Plains’) mortgaged his 100 acre, Portion 39 property. This time to his brother, John, “now of Elizabeth St, Singleton”. Alick got a marginally better deal from John than James had given him four years earlier. For the same mortgage of 500 pounds, John charged him 7 percent per annum instead of the 8 percent James had imposed – More than likely reflecting changing market rates for commercial transactions at that time.<sup>931</sup>



*Ellen Brown nee Turner wife of Alexander Brown*

The arrangements with brothers, James, and then John, for loans would have been intended to facilitate the expansion of his livestock management activities. To assist him in his endeavours, Alick called upon the

<sup>927</sup> Mitchell Library Doc 2197. Letter of 17 March 1914 Emily J Brown of Neutral Bay to genealogist G. R. Nichols re lot 39 at Cattai.

<sup>928</sup> BDM registration No 7592 of 1932. Father given as Richard Keating. Mother’s name not given.

<sup>929</sup> Dept of Lands, Portion 39, Parish of Maroota, Conveyance Book 41 No 199 dated 24 December 1855.

<sup>930</sup> Lands Titles Office Ref:91M102(235) of 11 November 1993. Re: Portion 39, Parish of Maroota ‘Crown grant dated 5/8/1806 of 100 acres to James Brown’. Mortgage Book 61, No 257 dated 5 May 1859.

<sup>931</sup> Lands Titles Office Ref:91M102(235) of 11 November 1993. Re: Portion 39, Parish of Maroota ‘Crown grant dated 5/8/1806 of 100 acres to James Brown’. Mortgage Book 86 No 341 dated 7 December 1863.



services of well regarded men like William Whiteman of Singleton. Whiteman during the early 1860's was Alex's chief stock keeper at Millie for six years, before moving on to 'Combadello' and 'Goonal'.<sup>932</sup>

**D**uring the early 1860's Aleck moved his family to Boggabri to be near Ellen's folks and take up a selection. Her father, Mark Turner, is reputed to have acquired the first lot of land sold there, and built Boggabri's first hotel. Boggabri was conveniently much closer to Millie than Lochinvar, and on the stock route between Millie and Jerry's Plains. As already indicated, this would have facilitated his management of his interests at Millie.

*# A daughter, Katherine Emily was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri, on 3 April 1864.*

**A** son, Alexander was born to Alick and Ellen in 1866 and died the same year.<sup>933</sup>

*# A daughter, Mary Ann, was born to Alick and Ellen in 1867.*

**I**n June of 1867, the Hawkesbury broke its banks. On 23 June of that year, a surge in the river, in conjunction with an exceptionally high tide at its entrance to the sea, caused it to flow a record 19.2 metres above its usual containment. In Pitt Town most of the residents were sheltered in churches and schoolhouses.<sup>934</sup> Brown family records are said to have been lost on this occasion and similar massive flooding on the Hunter.

**O**n 1 April 1868, Alick (now of 'Cox's Creek Namoi River, Farmer') leased Portion 39 to Ann Horan of Caddai Creek, widow, for a seven-year term.

*# George David Alexander was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri in 1871.*

*# A daughter, Edith Marian, was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri on 15 November 1873.*



*There was record flooding of the Hawkesbury region during 1867. Considerable property was damaged, crops and stock lost.*<sup>935</sup>

**A** daughter, Gertrude Amelia, was born to Alick and Ellen at Boggabri on 30 June 1876. She died in infancy on 21 January 1878, at Gunnedah. Cause of death was given as 'Teething'.<sup>936</sup> Alick gave his occupation at the time as 'Butcher'.

**A**lick and Ellen's eldest child, Ellen, at age 23 years, married on 14 March 1883 at Boggabri to Hugh Arnold.

**A**lick and Ellen's second eldest daughter, Catherine, at age 19 years, married on 12 June 1883 at Moree to William John Mahaffey.

<sup>932</sup> Obituary for William Whiteman, The Moree Gwydir Examiner 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1913. (Called William Wiseman in error.)

<sup>933</sup> Death Certificate Reg No 1866 6759

<sup>934</sup> Hawkesbury 1794 -1994. The first 200 Years of the Second Colonisation'

<sup>935</sup> Illustration per The Sydney Illustrated News re flood of 1867

<sup>936</sup> Death Certificate Reg No 1878 9775.



**E**llen, died at Smith Street, West Maitland on 12 June, 1890, aged 52 years. The informant was Alick. Cause of death was ‘Endocardites, Morbus Brighti and Dropsy’ and she was buried on 14 June 1890 in the Church of England Cemetery, West Maitland.<sup>937</sup>

Alick died at Cattai on 23 November 1899, aged 65 years, of acute diarrhoea over 5 days,<sup>938</sup> and was buried at Ebenezer.

**Alick had eight children by his marriage with Ellen:**

- |      |                           |       |                                       |
|------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| i.   | Ellen (1860 - 1924),      | v.    | Mary Ann (1869 - 1955 ),              |
| ii.  | Mark (1862 - 1938),       | vi.   | George David Alexander (1871 - 1941), |
| iii. | Katherine E (1864 -1927), | vii.  | Edith Marian (1873 - 1926), and       |
| iv.  | Alexander (1866 - 1866),  | viii. | Gertrude Amelia (1876 - 1878).        |

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<sup>937</sup> M Tattam 9 Aug 2001

<sup>938</sup> NSW death registration No 15764, Caddai.